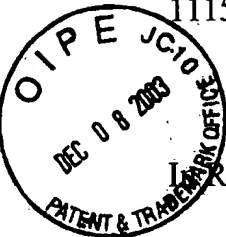


ENT 12-18-03



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

~~IN RE~~ U.S. Patent Application

Applicant(s): Katahara et al.

Serial No.: 09/888,896

Conf. No.: 9344

Filing Date: June 25, 2001

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PROCESSING APPARATUS

Art Unit: 2697

Examiner: Rodriguez, Glenda P

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

December 4, 2003

Date _____

F-CLASS.WCM
Appr. February 20, 1998

Registration No. 41,895

Attorney for Applicant

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Technology Center 2600

AMENDMENT A

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 16, 2003, please amend the above-identified Application as follows: